

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CTME-00 PA-02
/091 W

-----037204 241654Z /50

R 241448Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8008
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 14330

PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD; ALSO FOR USEC

PASS TREASURY FOR US CUSTOMS SERVICE/SPECIAL CUSTOMS
STEEL TASK FORCE/ROSETTIE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EIND, BE
SUBJECT: TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM: WEEKLY BELGIAN STEEL
REPORT AND PRICE LISTING

REF: BRUSSELS 13836

1. EMBASSY'S FREE TRANSLATION OF WEEKLY ECHO DE LA
BOURSE ARTICLE (JULY 19) ON BELGIAN STEEL INDUSTRY FOLLOWS:

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BEGIN TEXT. BELGIAN STEEL ORDERS WERE 777,000 TONS IN THE
COURSE OF JUNE COMPARED TO 946,000 TONS IN MAY. THEY HAVE
FALLEN TO THEIR LOWEST LEVEL OF THE YEAR. ORDERS FROM
THIRD COUNTRIES AMOUNTED TO 223,000 TONS COMPARED TO
366,000 TONS IN MAY, LITTLE MORE THAN THE 215,000 TONS
REGISTERED IN JANUARY 1978, THE LOWEST LEVEL OF THE YEAR.
AS FOR BUSINESS WITH COMMUNITY CLIENTS, VOLUME BROKE

THROUGH THE MAY FLOOR OF 580,000 TONS TO 554,000 TONS IN JUNE.

- ORDERS FOR BELGIAN STEEL (000 TONS)

MONTH: EEC-9: THIRD COUNTRIES: TOTAL:

JUNE 1978	554	223	777
MAY	580	366	946
APRIL	619	264	883
MARCH	765	202	967
FEBRUARY	643	269	912
JANUARY	624	215	839
DEC. 1977	549	275	822
NOVEMBER	457	418	875
OCTOBER	507	242	749
SEPTEMBER	411	372	783
AUGUST	350	239	589
JULY	389	271	660
JUNE	525	241	766
MAY	629	161	790
APRIL	617	207	824
MARCH	679	242	921
FEBRUARY	616	127	743
JANUARY	559	180	739

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THE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE IN MAY ORDERS AS COMPARED TO JUNE ORDERS MAY BE DUE TO THE JUNE STRIKES.

ON THE PRICE SIDE, THE TREND CONTINUES FAVORABLE. SOME PROGRESS IN MAJOR EXPORTS HAS EVEN BEEN NOTED. CONCRETE REINFORCING BARS ARE SLIGHTLY UP, AS ARE NORMAL SECTIONS, WIRE ROD, FOUR-HIGH MILLED PLATES, AND WIDE STRIP SHEETS IN ROLLS.

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY IS VERY CALM, WITH VACATIONS CAUSING A CERTAIN LETHARGY IN THE INDUSTRY. IT IS HOPED THAT THE FALL BUSINESS PICKUP WILL PROVIDE SOME INDICATIONS ON FUTURE TRENDS. BUT LESS, NOW, THAN WAS THE CASE FIVE OR TEN YEARS AGO. NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IS FORESEEN THAT COULD PERMIT A STRONG IMPROVEMENT IN THE MARKET. END TEXT.

2. PRICES.

FOB ANTWERP (FB/TON) -- (ONE DOLLAR EQUALS FB 32.5)

PRODUCT: 19 JULY 12 JULY

CONCRETE REINFORCING BARS 7,300-7,400 7,200-7,300
MERCHANT STEEL /- 7,800 /- 7,800
STANDARD SECTIONS 8,700-8,800 8,600-8,800
BROAD-FLANGED BEAMS /- 8,800 8,600-8,800
WIRE ROD 8,700-8,800 /- 8,700
4-HIGH MILLED PLATES 8,900-9,000 8,800-8,900
WIDE STRIP PLATES 8,900-9,000 8,600-8,800
HOT ROLLED COILS /- 8,600 /- 8,600
LAMINATED COLD-ROLLED SHEETS /- 10,400 /- 10,400
NARROW STRIPS /- 8,600 /- 8,600
GALVANIZED SHEETS
(COILS OF 4 TONS OR MORE) 11,500 11,500

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3. SCRAP. ACTIVITY ON THE SCRAP MARKET HAS FALLEN OFF
BECAUSE OF VACATIONS. PRICES HAVE NOT VARIED
SIGNIFICANTLY.

4. IN ANTICIPATION OF WTDR REQUESTS, EMBASSY COLLECTED
1977 ANNUAL REPORTS FOR EIGHT BELGIAN AND LUXEMBOURG
STEEL FIRMS (SIDMAR, COCKERILL, SOCIETE METALLURGIQUE
HAINAUT-SAMBRE, ARBED, FORGES DE THYMARCELLE
ET MONCEAU, FORGES DE CLABECQ, FINANCIERE DE RUAAU, AND
SA DES ATELIERS DU THIRIAU A BOIS-D'HAINES.), WHICH ARE
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BEING POUCHED TO TREASURY FOR SPECIAL CUSTOMS STEEL
TASK FORCE. CHAMBERS

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